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in carrying out the above methods and in the articles set forth without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention, it is intended that all matter contained in the above description and shown in the accompanying drawings shall be interpreted as illustrative and not in a limiting sense.

What is claimed is:

1. (Amended) A dental implant for insertion in the jaw bone of a patient, comprising:
 - an elongated body having a longitudinal axis and a proximal surface generally transverse to said longitudinal axis,
 - a boss extending from said proximal surface, said boss having a transverse face, generally axial extended side surfaces, and a non-round cross section as viewed along said axis,
 - at least one indentation penetrating at least one of said proximal surface and said transverse face of said implant, said at least one indentation being adapted to engage an insertion device or at least one protrusion of a dental prosthesis or an abutment so as to fix the position of the prosthesis or abutment relative to said implant.
2. A dental implant as in claim 1, wherein said non-round cross section is polygonal.
3. An implant as in claim 1 wherein said non-round cross section is defined by said side surfaces and selected from the group consisting of a convex polygon, nonconvex polygon, a closed periphery of curved surfaces, and a closed periphery being a combination of curved segments and linear segments.
4. A dental implant as in claim 1, wherein said non-round cross section is selected from the group consisting of generally square, hexagonal, pentagonal, elongated rectangular, oval, triangular, star-shaped, trefoil shaped, trapezoid-shaped, rounded with fluting, polygonal with fluting, non-convex polygonal, and nonregular polygonal.
5. An implant as in claim 1, wherein said side surfaces have flutes, said flutes being selected from the group consisting of internal flutes and external flutes.
6. A dental implant as in claim 1, wherein said boss includes a plurality of protrusions from said proximal surface, said protrusions from said proximal surface considered together providing said non-round cross section.
7. A dental implant for insertion in the jaw bone of a patient, comprising:
 - an elongated body having a longitudinal axis and a proximal surface generally transverse to said longitudinal axis, a boss extending from said proximal surface, said boss having a transverse face, axial extended side surfaces, and a non-round cross section as viewed along said axis,
 - said non-round cross section being defined by said side surfaces and selected from the group consisting of a convex polygon, nonconvex polygon, a closed periphery of curved surfaces, and a close periphery that is a combination of curved segments and linear segments, wherein said boss includes a plurality of protrusions from said proximal surface, said protrusions from said proximal surface considered together providing said non-round cross section.
8. A dental implant as in claim 7 wherein said non-round cross section is selected from the group consisting of generally square, hexagonal, pentagonal, elongated rectangular, oval, triangular, star-shaped, trefoil shaped, trapezoid-shaped, rounded with fluting, polygonal with fluting, non-convex polygonal, and nonregular polygonal.
9. A dental implant for insertion in the jaw bone of a patient, comprising:
 - an elongated body having a longitudinal axis and a proximal surface generally transverse to said longitudinal axis, a boss extending from said proximal surface, said boss having a transverse face, axially extending

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side surfaces, and a non-round cross section as viewed along said axis,

said non-round cross section being defined by said side surfaces and selected from the group consisting of generally trefoil, quatrefoil, trapezoid, convex polygon, with noncongruent sides, nonconvex irregular polygon, nonregular polygon, tear-shaped convex, and nonrectangular parallelogram cross sections.

10. An implant as in claim 9, wherein said side surfaces have flutes, said flutes being selected from the group consisting of internal flutes and external flutes.

11. An implant as in claim 9, wherein said boss cross-section is asymmetric relative to said longitudinal axis.

12. An implant assembly comprising:
(i) a dental implant for insertion in the jaw bone of a patient, comprising:

an elongated body having a longitudinal axis and a proximal surface generally transverse to said longitudinal axis.

a boss extending from said proximal surface, said boss having a transverse face, generally axial extended side surfaces, and a non-round cross section as viewed along said axis.

at least one indentation penetrating at least one of said proximal surface and said transverse face of said implant.

(ii) a dental prosthesis or abutment or impression coping for attachment to said implant, comprising, at a surface that engages said implant, at least one protrusion which engages with said at least one indentation so as to fix the position of the dental prosthesis or abutment or impression coping relative to said implant.

13. A dental implant for insertion in the jaw bone of a patient, comprising:

an elongated body having a longitudinal axis and a proximal surface generally transverse to said longitudinal axis.

a boss extending from said proximal surface, said boss having a transverse face and generally axial extended side surfaces, and a square cross section as viewed along said axis.

14. An implant as in claim 13, further comprising at least one indentation penetrating at least one of said proximal surface and said transverse face of said implant, said indentation being adapted to engage a dental prosthesis or abutment so as to fix the position of the prosthesis or abutment relative to said implant.

15. A dental implant for insertion in the jaw bone of a patient, comprising:

an elongated body having a longitudinal axis and a proximal surface generally transverse to said longitudinal axis.

a boss extending from said proximal surface, said boss having a transverse face and generally axial extended side surfaces.

at least one indentation penetrating at least one of said proximal surface and said transverse face of said implant, said at least one indentation being adapted to engage an insertion device or at least one protrusion of a dental prosthesis or abutment so as to fix the position of the abutment or crown relative to said implant.

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